

and support a diplomatic solution. The alternative is famine, displacement, and unending misery for the people of Tigray, and for this Nobel Peace Prize winner to be held accountable for crimes against humanity.

(At the request of Mr. THUNE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

MISSED VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, due to unforeseen travel disruptions, I will miss today's votes. •

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 412, Rahul Gupta, of West Virginia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN'S VETERANS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today to honor all of the brave Michigan veterans who have served in our Nation's military.

When the scourge of slavery threatened to tear our Nation in two, Michiganders selflessly marched to war. When fascism rose in Europe, Michiganders built an Arsenal of Democracy and kept freedom alive. And when terrorists attacked our own country 20 years ago, Michiganders stood up and signed up. Over and over again, Michigan men and women have served our country to protect our freedoms.

These veterans all fought different battles and had different missions. But all of them were patriots. All of them—and their families—made incredible sacrifices. And all of them were willing to lay down their own lives to protect their fellow Americans and this Nation we love.

Perhaps there's no better Michigan example of this than Charles S. Kettles. Charles was born in Ypsilanti in 1930 and fell in love with flying while attending Edison Institute High School in Dearborn. Aviation was in his blood; his dad was a military pilot.

In 1951, Charles was drafted into the Army. He attended Army Aviation School and served tours in Korea, Japan, and Thailand. He retired from Active Duty in 1956 and continued to serve in the Army Reserves.

During the Vietnam war, the Army was in desperate need of helicopter pilots. So in 1963, Charlie volunteered for active duty and learned to fly the UH-1D, "Huey."

Those skills would save lives on May 15, 1967. Then-Major Kettles volunteered to lead a flight of six Hueys on a rescue mission.

Charles's helicopter came under fire, but he kept on flying. After the second rescue flight, his helicopter was leaking fuel, and his gunner was severely

wounded. He found a helicopter that wasn't leaking and went back to rescue the stranded men.

On the way back to the base, he learned that eight troops had been left behind. Without a second thought, he returned to the landing zone.

His helicopter was hit by gunfire and a mortar round. Yet somehow, Charles made it back to the landing zone, picked up the stranded troops, and brought them safely back to the base. In total, he saved 44 lives that day.

Typically, the Medal of Honor must be awarded within 5 years of the heroic act. But this kind of heroism has no expiration date. In 2015, I introduced legislation with Senator GARY PETERS and Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL to allow Charles to receive the Medal of Honor. In 2016, he did.

And earlier this year, it was an incredible honor to be there when the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Ann Arbor was renamed after Charles. Lieutenant Colonel Kettles saved lives back in 1967, and the Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center is saving lives today.

"We got the 44 out," he said during his Medal of Honor ceremony in 2016. "None of those names appear on the wall in Washington. There's nothing more important than that."

Humility, a spirit of service, and the willingness to sacrifice. Michigan's veterans have done so much for us. It is our solemn duty to keep each and every promise we have made to them.

Thank you.

HONORING CHARLES "CHARLIE" E. WHITE

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of Charles "Charlie" E. White, an outstanding American and decorated Vietnam War veteran.

While Charlie is no longer with us, his legacy lives on. On behalf of my fellow Americans, I would like extend our deepest gratitude for his service to this Nation.

Charlie was born on May 21, 1944, in Kansas City, MO, to Owlen and Lucille White. His parents raised him alongside his brothers Bobby and Jerry and sister Judy in Independence, MO.

Charlie never shied away from service or sacrifice, and when the Vietnam war broke out, he quickly answered the call to duty and enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served our country heroically as a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces, the Green Berets.

As a sergeant in the Green Berets, he engaged in many perilous combat missions in Vietnam, including one where he was wounded by an enemy soldier's bayonet. He donned a scar across his face for the rest of his life from this encounter and was awarded for his exemplary valor with multiple service medals.

After the war, Charlie returned to Kansas and settled into his life as a loving husband and devoted father.

Known by many for his hard work ethic and determination, he led a long career working for BNFS Railway and provided a great life for his family.

He is survived by his wife Diane, sons Jack and Steve, daughter Tambra, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandson. His memory lives on through each of them and through his enduring legacy.

I now have the profound honor of recognizing Charlie White with the following honors for his bravery in the line of duty: Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, and Silver Star Medal.

These medals represent a small token of our country's appreciation for Charlie's incredible service and sacrifice.

He is an American hero who has made our country proud, and we owe him a great debt of gratitude.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING FLORENCE'S EXQUISITE CHOCOLATES

• Mr. RISCH. Madam President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Florence's Exquisite Chocolates in Rexburg as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for November 2021.

As the namesake and founder of the business, Florence Manwaring had a long-standing passion for making chocolate. To pay her way through college, Florence began working in a chocolate factory where she learned the art of chocolatiering. Florence combined her work experience, passion, and giving spirit to make candies for her friends and family. Her chocolates became popular with her friends, and with their encouragement, Florence and her husband Var considered launching a business so she could pursue her passion. As the economy hit a downturn in the 70s, Var switched his focus from construction to helping his wife open a small business, and in 1981, Florence's dream became a reality.

Despite initial struggles, the shop quickly gained the attention of the Rexburg community and grew so rapidly that Florence's family became involved as well. A true family-owned business, the Manwarings have the distinction of employing every single family member, each of whom has been critical to the company's success.

Some of Florence's iconic chocolates include turtles, haystacks, toffees, caramels, and mints. The business has received widespread recognition, garnering positive reception from leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and then-President Ronald Reagan. Florence's shop has not only found success selling locally, but has also distributed its candies throughout the region.